

CONFIDENTIAL PTQ2276

PAGE 01 HARARE 03096 081622Z
ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AF-00	AID-00	AMAD-01	ACQ-00	CA-02
	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	INL-01	DODE-00	DOEE-00	ANHR-00	SRPP-00
	DS-00	EB-00	FBIE-00	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
	INSE-00	IO-00	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	OIC-02
	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00
	SSO-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	FMP-00	PMB-00
	DSCC-00	PRM-01	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/012W
					-----60ABEC	081623Z	/38

FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6251
INFO NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
USINT HAVANA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L HARARE 003096

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR CA A/S MARY RYAN, CA/VO/F/P DARIA
DARNELL, AF PDAS NANCY POWELL, AF DAS WITNEY SCHNEIDMAN,
AF/S DIRECTOR ARLENE RENDER, AF/S DEPUTY DIRECTOR DON
BOOTH, AND AF/S ZIMBABWE DESK OFFICER CHARLES GURNEY

NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR GAYLE SMITH
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HARARE 03096 081622Z

GENEVA FOR RMA

NAIROBI FOR REFCOORD AND INS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/08/10
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PREF](#) [CMGT](#) [ZI](#) [CU](#)
SUBJECT: ZIMBABWE MAKES NO DECISION ON REFUGEE STATUS,
BUT TRANSFERS CUBAN DOCTORS TO CUSTODY OF UNHCR

REF: HARARE 3084

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR TOM MCDONALD FOR REASONS 1.5
B/D.

1. (C) UNITED NATIONS RESIDENT COORDINATOR CARLOS LOPES
INFORMED AMBASSADOR MCDONALD LATE ON JUNE 8 THAT THE
ZIMBABWEAN GOVERNMENT REFUGEE COMMITTEE HAD DELIBERATED
ON THE CASE OF THE CUBAN DOCTORS LEONEL CORDOVA
RODRIGUEZ AND NORIS PENA MARTINEZ FOR THREE HOURS AND
TOOK NO FORMAL DECISION. INSTEAD, THE ZIMBABWEAN PANEL
DECIDED TO GRANT "TEMPORARY REFUGEE STATUS" TO THE PAIR,
RELEASED THEM FROM PRISON AND HANDED THEM OVER TO THE
CUSTODY OF THE UNHCR. THE CLEAR UNDERSTANDING, LOPES
STATED, WAS THAT THE CUBANS WOULD BE RESETTLED PROMPTLY
IN A THIRD COUNTRY. ACCORDING TO LOPES, LUSAKA-BASED
UNCHR ATTORNEY MICHAEL SALOMONS WAS NOW SCHEDULED TO
ARRIVE IN HARARE ON JUNE 10.

2. (C) UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE JOHN ADU TOLD CONSUL EARLIER
THAT THE TWO DOCTORS WERE IN HIS CUSTODY, BUT THAT HE
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HARARE 03096 081622Z
DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THEY WOULD BE SAFE IN THE
ZIMBABWEAN IMMIGRATION SERVICE'S TRANSIT FACILITY.
THEREFORE, ADU SAID THAT TWO DOCTORS WOULD BE HOUSED IN
THE GOZ'S REMAND FACILITIES. ADU TOLD CONSUL THAT
DOCTORS CORDOVA AND PENA WERE IN HIS OFFICE AND THAT HE
INTENDED TO ACCOMPANY THEM TO THE REMAND CENTERS TO
ASCERTAIN THE EXACT LOCATION OF EACH. DOCTOR CORDOVA IS
TO BE HOUSED AT A FACILITY IN DOWNTOWN HARARE, WHILE
DOCTOR PENA WILL STAY AT CHIKURUBI REMAND CENTER, ON THE
GROUNDS OF ZIMBABWE'S ONE MAXIMUM-SECURITY PRISON, JUST
OUTSIDE OF HARARE.

3. (C) COMMENT: WE CANNOT RULE OUT SOMETHING GOING
WRONG IN THE COMING DAYS, WHETHER IT IS THE CUBANS
ATTEMPTING TO SPIRIT THE TWO OUT OF ZIMBABWE OR
PRESIDENT MUGABE RECONSIDERING AND DECIDING THAT THIS IS
NOT THE OUTCOME HE WANTED FOR THE CASE. THE SITUATION
ARGUES FOR QUICK PROCESSING OF THE DOCTORS AND THEIR
TRANSFER TO U.S. SOIL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. END COMMENT.

MCDONALD

